

REMARKS

In the subject Office action of 15 November 2006, claims 1, 2, 5, 8-13, 15, 17 and 18 were examined. In response thereto, Applicant has amended claims 1, and 8-10, canceled claims 2, 5 and 18, and maintained claims 11-13, 15, and 17 under active prosecution in the present application. Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are supported by the original disclosure and do not introduce new matter. Moreover, Applicants further respectfully assert that the amendments merely clarify the scope of the claims and do not present new issues and thus may be entered under 37 CFR 1.116 after final rejection.

In the subject Office action, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huebsch et al. (US 5,853,422). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huebsch in view of Adams (US 6,632,227). Claim 2 was objected to as being independent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12, 13, 15 and 17 were allowed.

In response thereto, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the allowable feature of dependent claim 2. Claims 8-10 that depend from claim 1 have been amended to correspond to the features of claim 2. Thus, claims 1, 8-11 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. The remaining claims 12, 13, 15 and 17 were previously allowed.

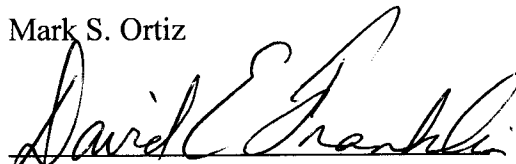
Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims currently pending in the present application are in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of those claims, as amended herein, is earnestly solicited. Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact their representative, David Franklin at (513) 651-6856 or dfranklin@fbtlaw.com.

In the original application 20 claims with 3 independent claims were filed. After this amendment, the claims number 9 total with 2 independent claims. This amendment is being filed within the 3 month period. Therefore, no fees are due. The Commissioner for Patents, however, is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees to Frost Brown Todd LLC Deposit Account No. 06-2226.

Respectfully submitted,

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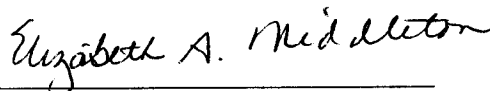
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I hereby certify that a copy of this correspondence is being deposited with the US Patent Office by electronic transmission addressed to MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 5th day of January, 2007.



Elizabeth A. Middleton